MIT's Oldest and
Largest Newspaper

thetech.com

The Tech
Established 1881

Volume 139, Number 20

Thursday, September 26, 2019

WEATHER, p. 2
THU: 82°F | 50°F
Chance of showers.
FRI: 72°F | 58°F
Sunny.
SAT: 79°F | 62°F
Mostly sunny.

Decolonize Divest!!!
I STRIKE 4 SNOWSPORTS
CLIMATE ACTION NOW
We have the TECH we need the WILL
YOSEMITE

KEVIN LY—THE TECH

MIT students and Cambridge residents march to Boston as part of the Global Climate Strike Friday.

Commencement to change for 2020

Separation of degree-awarding ceremonies under consideration

By Zawad Chowdhury

The administration is planning to change the structure of the 2020 Commencement ceremony, likely in the form of a short ceremony for all students followed by separate degree-awarding ceremonies. The changes aim to address issues such as the lack of space in Killian Court and the extensive length of the ceremony.

Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 said in an interview with *The Tech* that there is no final decision yet on what Commencement will look like. The primary idea under consideration is to have a shorter ceremony in Killian Court, called the "One-MIT" ceremony, where all undergraduates and graduate students are invited, and traditions such as the turning of the Brass Rat are performed. Afterwards, shorter and separate "recognition" ceremonies would be held where students' names would be recognized and degrees awarded.

Barnhart said, "There's a range [of feasible options for such ceremonies], but they can be categorized into two groups. One is thinking about it at the school or program level." The other involves bringing "all of the undergrad students in one

Commencement, Page 2

IN SHORT

There will be a **flu shot clinic** from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Walker Memorial Oct. 3.

The last day to **add full-term subjects** is Oct. 4.

Class of 2020 students applying for a **double major** must do so by Oct. 4.

The deadline for **dropping half-term subjects** offered in the first half of term is Oct. 4.

Interested in **joining** *The Tech*? Stop by for dinner Sunday at 6 p.m. or email *join@tech.mit.edu.*

Send news and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu.*

Goodwin Procter finds letter signed by Reif

Reif mentions judgment errors and emphasizes transparency in investigation

By Kerri Lu

Law firm Goodwin Procter, which is investigating MIT's financial ties to Jeffrey Epstein, has discovered a "standard acknowledgment letter" signed by President L. Rafael Reif August 2012 thanking Epstein for a donation to Professor Seth Lloyd. Reif disclosed the findings in an email to the MIT community Sept. 12 about Goodwin Procter's "preliminary fact-finding."

Reif wrote that the donation to Lloyd was "as far as we know now, the first gift received at MIT after Epstein's conviction."

Goodwin Procter also found that "senior members of the administration were aware of gifts the Media Lab received between 2013 and 2017 from Jeffrey Epstein's foundations," Reif wrote.

In an earlier email to the MIT community Sept. 9, Reif wrote that the MIT Corporation had commissioned Goodwin Procter to independently conduct a "thorough investigation of the facts surrounding Jeffrey Epstein's interactions with MIT." The law firm was instructed to "explore all donations" associated with Epstein and to ascertain "who at MIT may have been aware of the donations."

In an interview with *The Tech*, Reif said that the investigation is expected to take about six weeks. The MIT Corporation's executive committee will then decide the extent to which Goodwin Procter's findings will be released to the MIT community. Reif said that he "would like all the information to come out" for the sake of transparency.

"What is clear is that there were judgment errors, and there were system errors, and I would like to know the details of how that happened," Reif said.

"I appoint people to work with me and I feel responsible for all decisions being made in this place. I also feel responsible for the culture of MIT, in that I believe that the culture of MIT to some extent played a role in decision-making," Reif said, alluding to last Wednesday's Institute Faculty Meeting. At the meeting, several female faculty members suggested that gender inequality ingrained in MIT's culture enabled Epstein's relationship with the Institute.

Reif said his administration will address calls for Institute-wide cultural change with three central focuses: processes, principles based on the values of the MIT community, and culture. Reif said he is currently meeting with faculty to "figure out our processes of donor relations" and "make sure … we all agree we have a cultural issue that we have to address."

Goodwin Procter, Page 2

Hundreds march in climate strike

Protesters join millions around world to call for energy revolution

By Ronak Roy

Hundreds of members of the MIT community participated in the Global Climate Strike Sept. 20. The group gathered in front of the Stratton Student Center and then marched into Boston to join the Boston Climate Strike.

Participants held signs reading "You Lie = I Die," "Break free from fossil fuels," "Climate Action Now," and "Greta gets it," referencing teen climate activist Greta Thunberg. After brief speeches by Catherine Wilka G and Brian Cleary PhD '19, the protestors proceeded through campus to Kendall Square, taking the T to Boston City Hall to join the Boston Climate Strike. While on campus, the strikers chanted slogans such as "Climate change is not a lie. Do not let our planet die," and "The sea is rising and so are we!"

This was one of hundreds of strikes worldwide, in over 150 countries. Strikers left school or work to protest the lack of sufficient action by governments and businesses to combat climate change.

The Global Climate Strike, which officially spans the week of Sept. 20 to Sept. 27, was created by a coalition of groups, nongovernmental organization, unions, and social movements, inspired by weekly strikes organized by students worldwide through the #FridaysForFuture platform.

The strike at MIT was organized by graduate students in climate-related sciences in the department of earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences, Wilka, a PhD student in climate physics and chemistry, said in an interview with *The Tech*.

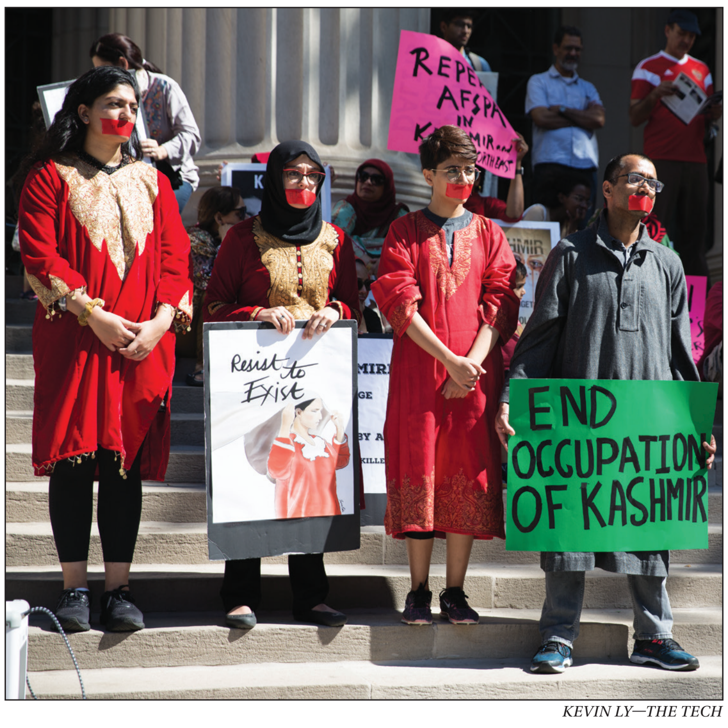
Wilka said, "About a month ago, a couple of students in EAPS and I tried to figure out what the campus was doing in support of the climate strike, because we thought it would be important for MIT to have a presence. … It turned out that there wasn't really one event being organized yet, so we did it ourselves." Wilka said that the organizers also reached out to other departments and organizations to help plan the event.

One of the involved organizations was Science for People Boston. Cleary, fellow at the Broad Institute and member of Science for People, wrote in an email to *The Tech* that Science for People "determined that we could play a role in spreading the word about the strike within our groups and departments."

Wilka said she became involved with the strike because her generation was the first generation to truly feel the impacts of climate change.

In his email, Cleary praised the grassroots nature of the strike, writing, "We cannot rely on our institutions — governments, corpo-

Climate Strike, Page 15



KEVIN LY—THE TECH

Demonstrators gather outside the steps of Lobby 7 Sunday to stand in solidarity with Kashmiri people involved in border conflicts with neighboring countries.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Juggling classes, qualifying exams, and research forced my mental health to suffer. **OPINION, p. 5**

LETTER TO PRESIDENT REIF AND PROVOST SCHMIDT REGARDING EPSTEIN

The gender implications of the MIT-Epstein relationship. **OPINION, p. 4**

IMMERSING IN COLOR

Yayoi Kusama arrives at the ICA. **ARTS, p. 8**

ABOMINABLE OR LOVEABLE

A yeti finds his way home. **ARTS, p. 8**

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WEATHER

A sunny start to autumn!

By Sheila Baber
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Happy fall! Hope everyone enjoyed the warm and (mostly) clear weather this past week, with some gentle showers at night. This past week has also been the Climate Strike, and here in the Boston-Cambridge area thousands showed up at the City Hall Plaza and marched to the State House to demand legislators to reject fossil fuels and transition to the Green New Deal.

There is a high pressure sitting over the East Coast, meaning that this weekend is expected to be mostly sunny. There is a slight chance of showers Saturday night—so pack your rain jacket just in case if you plan on doing anything in the wee hours! In terms of weather in other parts of the country, hurricane Karen has made landfall in Puerto Rico, which will result in flooding, flash flooding, and mudslides. The Northwest is also expected to experience heavy rains, with a cold front moving southwards.

Extended Forecast

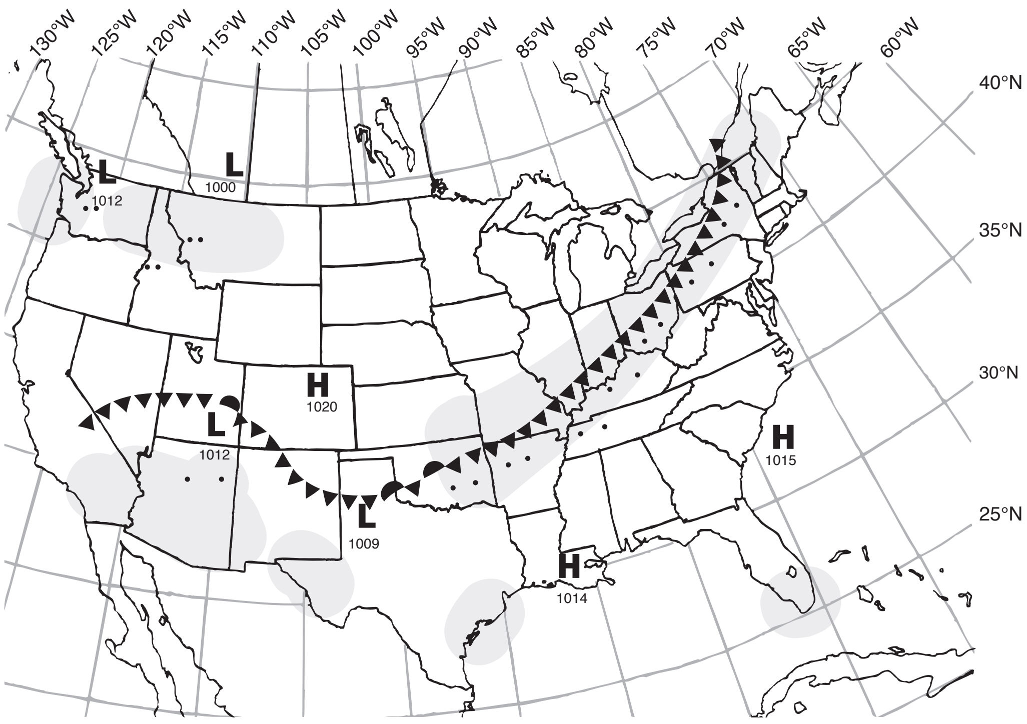
Today: A chance of showers after 4pm. High near 82°F (27.5°C). Southwest winds around 10–15 mph with gusts up to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 30%.

Tonight: Showers likely before 9 pm, with chance of 70%. Low around 50°F (15°C). Mostly cloudy early evening, with gradual clearing. West winds 8–10 mph.

Tomorrow: Sunny with high near 72°F (22.2°C) and low near 58°F (14.4°C). Southwest wind around 8 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 79°F (26.1°C) and low near 62°F(16.7°C). Chance of showers Saturday night.

Sunday: Mostly sunny with high near 69°F (20.6°C) and low near 55°F(12.8°C). North winds near 11 mph.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, September 26, 2019

Weather Systems	
H	High Pressure
L	Low Pressure
§	Hurricane

Weather Fronts	
▬ ▬ ▬	Trough
◠◠◠◠	Warm Front
▲▲▲▲▲	Cold Front
▲◡▲◡	Stationary Front

Precipitation Symbols	Snow	Rain
Showers	∗ ▽	• ▽
Light	∗	•
Moderate	∗∗	• •
Heavy	⁂	∴

Other Symbols	
☰	Fog
⚡	Thunderstorm
∞	Haze

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

Barnhart to send survey to students about Commencement preferences

Commencement, from Page 1

ceremony, or all of the PhD students together in one ceremony. All of those options are part of the set that we're considering."

"The Chancellor's Office, GSC, and UA have had multiple meetings where we productively discussed, going forward, what Commencement would look like," UA President Mahi Elango '20 said in an interview with *The Tech*.

The UA sent out a survey to all undergraduates Sept. 14 to evaluate what undergraduates value in Commencement. "We shared aggregate anonymous results [from the survey] with the Chancellor's Office," Elango said. Survey results will be made public to all undergraduates in the coming days.

Barnhart wrote in an email to *The Tech*, "In the next couple of days, I will be sending a brief survey to students that will ask them for their preferences on a couple of different recognition ceremony options. Those options will be different for each school but, generally, they will range from a smaller school-based ceremony to a larger all undergraduate and masters ceremony in Killian.

"It's also possible that students' answers may help us to identify new configurations that will deliver the best possible experience for our graduates and guests," Barnhart continued.

The increased number of degree recipients in recent years has strained venue capacity and extended the length of the Commencement ceremony. As a result, during the past two commencements, many students exited the ceremony while degrees were being handed out, and several guests had to visit the medical tent after sitting in the sun for hours, Barnhart said. Barhart said that the concern about the length of the ceremony was shared by the administration and student leaders.

Barnhart said that the Commencement Committee has been considering these issues over the past couple of years. GSC President Peter Su G was a member of the 2018-19 committee. Su said in an interview with *The Tech*, "Commencement Committee last year went through a lot of different scenarios of how we could change Commencement… and the scenario that was approved [for recommendation to the administration] was two completely distinct ceremonies: one for undergrads, one for grads."

Following the 2019 Commencement, the senior administrators and senior faculty met in Academic Council, and decided that the undergraduate-graduate split would not be enough to address concerns such as ceremony length. They decided to explore the idea of the One-MIT ceremony and degree conferral by school or department.

This decision was sent out to the current GSC and UA leadership in an email late summer. However, Su said,"I think they didn't realize the way they were talking about it implied that it was a final decision. … If this is considered a final decision, students are not going to be happy."

The UA leadership wrote an op-ed in The Tech Sept. 12 expressing their disappointment with the failures in communication. Following the publication of the article, the Chancellor met with both undergraduate and graduate student leadership. "Not all of the leaders understood the full landscape of what we were actually considering," Barnhart said, "and so we wanted to make sure they understood that."

Regarding the future of Commencement, Elango said, "Because we're on a timeline constraint, … we are making as best of a decision as we can for 2020. But the decision for 2020 is by no means how we'll do things 2021 and beyond. We will have more and more conversations about how to fine tune it for what's best for everyone."

"Whatever decision is made will be one the UA, GSC, and Chancellor's office agree on as the best for all stakeholders," Elango said.

Su said, "[The GSC's] role right now is to essentially make sure that whatever ends up being the final result is not something that will hurt graduate students. … It's always been about keeping as many people as happy as possible."

Jacob Miske '20 said in an interview with *The Tech* that Commencement "should be catering to the requests of a particular student body which feels contiguous amongst itself, which I believe is either the undergraduates or the graduates but not necessarily a ceremony containing both of them."

Miske said, "A student in the School of Science and a student in the School of Engineering don't really think of themselves that different, and they wouldn't necessarily understand what the purpose behind graduating separately would be."

Miske added that he would hate to see "the ceremony for the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences to be small compared to the ceremony for the School of Engineering or the School of Science when they matter just as much."

Reif to hold student forum

Goodwin Procter, from Page 1

Reif said he has asked Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 to "work with student leaders to organize some kind of student forum for me to listen to them." He has also asked Vice President for Research Maria Zuber to "organize a conversation with members of the research staff" and Deputy Vice President Tony Sharon to "organize meetings with administrative staff."

"A cultural issue is not just an issue of faculty, it's an issue of students as well," Reif continued. "I want to very deliberately listen to everybody, to hear them express their concerns."

More broadly, Reif said the problem he hopes to address through Goodwin Procter's investigation is not just a particular funding model for scientific research, but MIT's ethical "principles of engaging with donors and the kind of donors we are going to be soliciting."

"[Whoever] is going to give us money, whether it's a country, or a government, or a donor, we need to understand what we want from these people and why we want these particular people to be the ones giving us money," Reif said.

Reif concluded, "My sincere hope is that through all this pain, we'll find the right way to proceed so that MIT not only doesn't go through this kind of situation again, but will come out of it stronger than ever, with very clear moral principles that we practice and that we can be proud of."

Goodwin Procter declined *The Tech*'s request for comment.

VICTORIA DZIECIOL—THE TECH

A member of the MIT community makes a purchase at the plant sale outside the Stratton Student Center Thursday.

DID YOUR MIT ESSAYS GET YOU IN?

The Tech is collecting successful application essays (hint: yours!).
Email your pieces to cl@tech.mit.edu!

MIT settles Fidelity lawsuit about employees’ 401(k) plans

Schmidt: MIT settled the case because of ‘continued cost and distraction of litigation’

By Wenbo Wu
STAFF REPORTER

MIT agreed Sept. 12 to settle a 2016 lawsuit alleging that its poor monitoring of its supplemental 401(k) plan had cost its employees tens of millions of dollars. While the conditions of the settlement have not yet been made public, the settlement remains to be approved by federal court. If approved, affected individuals will be further notified.

In an email to faculty and staff Sept. 12, Provost Martin Schmidt PhD ’88 wrote, “MIT believes firmly that it has managed the 401(k) Plan in careful compliance of the law and in the best interests of its participants.”

MIT chose to settle the case because “the continued cost and distraction of litigation are likely to be significant,” Schmidt wrote.

The settlement announcement came four days before Sept. 16, the date slated for the bench trial, which then did not take place.

Jerome Schlichter, a lawyer representing the plaintiffs in this case, wrote in an email to *The Tech* that details of the settlement will be publicly disclosed “when full settlement papers are filed within a few weeks.”

Schlichter wrote that after relevant paperwork is filed, the next steps would be for the parties to “request that the Federal Court grant preliminary approval to the settlement, and if it does, notices will go out to class members, who are employees and retirees of MIT.”

According to a Sept. 4 district court order, MIT reorganized its offerings of 401(k) investment options, removing hundreds of funds July 15. MIT’s supplemental 401(k) plan is managed by Fidelity, the recordkeeper and investment manager responsible for choosing and tracking MIT’s funds.

The plaintiffs argued that MIT had failed to reduce funds devoted to high-cost or poorly performing investment options, forcing its employees to pay excessive retirement fees. The plaintiffs claim MIT improperly monitored Fidelity, and thus violated the Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

The plaintiffs alleged in 2018 via a second amended complaint that MIT had financial conflicts of interest by “hiring an MIT donor — Fidelity Investments — as the Plan’s recordkeeper and primary investment provider.”

The District of Massachusetts Court issued an order denying the plaintiffs’ motion to file a third amended complaint Aug. 8. Meanwhile, MIT moved for summary judgement, a decision made by a judge without a full trial. The motion was partially allowed in a Sept. 4 district court order, but the plaintiffs’ claims that MIT has failed to properly monitor its fiduciaries and charged excessive fees remained viable for the Sept. 16 bench trial.

Raytheon BOMBS
CREATE HUNGER IN
SP
STAR
YE
STOP weapon sales to

ETHER BEZUGLA—THE TECH

Protesters stand outside the Career Fair Friday in opposition to defense contractors.

Anne Hunter to retire as EECS undergrad academic admin.

Hunter: ‘My specialty, my favorite thing, is getting students graduated’

By Kristina Chen
STAFF REPORTER

Anne Hunter, the undergraduate academic administrator for the electrical engineering and computer science (EECS) department, is retiring after 37 years in the role and more than 46 years at MIT.

Earlier this week, *The Tech* interviewed Hunter to talk about her experiences as academic administrator and her contributions to student success within the department.

This interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity.

The Tech: In what ways has the EECS department grown or changed since you first became academic administrator?

Anne Hunter: This office takes care of about 59 percent more students, both undergraduate and masters of engineering. We have six different undergraduate majors instead of two, and we have the masters of engineering program. The Stata Center was a big, big change. It brought the CS faculty and research labs onto the main campus.

TT: How has your role in the department changed over time?

Hunter: I’ve taken on more and more programs during the years. I’ve been the UROP coordinator for many years, developed and oversaw our freshman pre-orientation program, and ran Course 6’s study abroad programs. I advise the student groups IEEE/ACM [Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers/Association for Computing Machinery] and Eta Kappa Nu.

I took over and have been running Course 6 IAP offerings, including competitions. I’ve worked on many committees at all levels of the Institute, from department curriculum committees to student committees. I was on an MIT student mental health committee a few years ago. I’m currently on the ARM committee; it’s looking at issues and how to help students with limited means.

TT: What has been the greatest challenge you have faced as undergraduate administrator?

Hunter: I think the greatest challenge has been getting all the work done while counseling all the students who needed me to talk to them and explain things to them. They’re sort of two pulls: talking to students versus getting all the administrative stuff done.

TT: What are you most proud of achieving as undergraduate administrator?

Hunter: I think that working with students and advisors has been very joyful for me and has made me feel really fulfilled. I really find it very satisfying to not just answer students’ immediate questions, but to open opportunity to them, to let them know about things they didn’t know about. I mean, you can change peoples’ lives that way.

TT: What do you think has been the greatest achievement of the department in your time as administrator?

Hunter: Well, we developed the whole masters of engineering program. That was a really huge thing, a new degree program at MIT, and extremely successful. It’s a really good opportunity for our students. I’m really proud of it in that way.

TT: What are some things you have observed about undergraduates entering EECS in the years you’ve served as undergraduate administrator?

Hunter: They’re more diverse; they’re more mature. I’m really proud of our increasing diversity. When I first came into the department, we were around 14 percent women in the department, and we’ve been as high recently, in the undergraduate, as 37 percent. That’s a lot better, and the same kind of things have happened with underrepresented minorities. There’s been a lot of improvement there, though one could always strive for more.

TT: What is your favorite aspect of the EECS department?

Hunter: I think the EECS department is really wonderfully professional. I really admire the faculty’s professionalism and dedication. They’re really dedicated to teaching students, and they really care. The students have wonderful curiosity and a desire to understand deeply, even with things like administrative processes.

TT: What are you looking forward to in the future of EECS?

Hunter: I hope there’ll be more changes like the recent developments in machine learning and data science. I want both computer science and electrical engineering to go in new and unexpected directions in connections with other fields.

TT: What were some of the best memories you had working with undergraduates?

Hunter: My specialty, my favorite thing, is getting students graduated. All of the requirements for graduation are complex. There’s bureaucratic stuff, sometimes shortage of units, sometimes forms, and all the different things that can go wrong. We come up at the end, and there will often be students where it just doesn’t look like you’re going to be able to get them graduated, and I really, really enjoy making that happen, sort of against all the odds.

TT: If you could give one piece of advice to MIT students, what would it be?

Hunter: The same I’d give to people in general: be kind and be kind and be kind, which is paraphrasing Henry James. That’s really the most important message I would have for them, and I’ve tried to embody that when working with students, to show them that kindness. I’ll leave the teaching to other people.

TT: How has the department shaped you, as you and other faculty helped shape it?

Hunter: It’s made me a lot more patient. I wasn’t really a patient person to start with, I’m still not really in most ways, but I’ve become able to be quiet, calm, and patient with students, even if successive students ask me the same questions over and over. I think the biggest lesson I’ve learned is to be patient, as I said, and that doing good is easier and feels wonderful compared with not doing good. I really like that part, being able to know that everyday, I’ve helped someone. That feels really great, and I will miss that and MIT students enormously.

TT: What does the future hold for you? What are you looking forward to doing after retirement?

Hunter: I want to travel a lot. I picture a railroad trip through Switzerland; they’ve got more railroad lines than you can imagine. I would go to all the different flavors of Switzerland: French Switzerland, Italian Switzerland. I want to visit alumni friends on the West Coast, in New York, etc. I want to read books instead of emails; I read history, geology, science fiction, and fantasy. I want to find the right nonprofit, if I can, and mentor disadvantaged youth into great colleges.

TT: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Hunter: I have every confidence that the people in my office will continue to serve students ably and well.

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OPEN LETTERS

A letter to President Reif and Provost Schmidt regarding Epstein

To President Rafael Reif and Provost Marty Schmidt,

We write as senior women faculty members (current and emerita) of MIT to share our deep distress over the MIT/Epstein revelations and our profound disappointment in learning of the apparent complicity of administrative leadership. We write also to encourage efforts to uncover the truth about and learn from the current crisis. This letter is a call for integrity and action.

From various departments across MIT, we are gravely concerned about the situation that has emerged: Institute leaders, faculty, and lab directors at MIT may have violated campus fundraising procedures. They certainly violated Institute values not only by accepting money from, but also by inviting onto campus Jeffrey Epstein, a level three (high risk of repeat offense) registered sex offender. MIT cultivated a relationship with Epstein over time that rewarded, empowered, and elevated him. With the approval of administrative leadership, faculty and staff attempted to conceal that relationship from those they knew it would disturb. Some students and staff who were asked to collude were made to feel morally compromised. Taking Epstein's money suggested a willingness to turn a blind eye to the impact of his crimes, which included procuring the prostitution of a minor. The fact that this situation was even thinkable at MIT is profoundly disturbing and is symptomatic of broader, more structural problems involving gender and race in MIT's culture. It is time for fundamental change.

You have appointed the Goodwin Procter law firm to investigate fundraising practices and MIT personnel involved in this situation. This investigation follows a series of loudly-voiced concerns about MIT's acceptance of funding from controversial sources. While the ethics of fundraising are crucially important to us, we also strongly believe that the significant gender and sexual implications of the MIT/Epstein relationship must not be lost in these financial investigations and discussions.

Epstein's victims, survivors, and their families have experienced additional degradation and damage because of MIT's actions, as have our students, faculty, and staff. By allowing Epstein's MIT relationships to flourish, the Institute failed in its obligation to provide a safe and supportive environment. Knowing that Epstein was invited to campus offices, survivors of sexual assault, rape, and/or sexual abuse — of whom there are many in this community — have been shaken. How can MIT's leadership be trusted when it appears that child prostitution and sex trafficking can be ignored in exchange for a financial contribution?

Working to address its long history of gender inequity, MIT has enacted some positive measures over the years to attract and retain women students and faculty and to support them on campus. Yet those efforts are now at risk of being eroded. Epstein's clandestine donations and visits to MIT are a stark reminder that "cutting edge" spaces of "technological innovation," at MIT no less than elsewhere, remain exclusionary zones of privilege. Too often, academic fundraising efforts and the projects that follow reinforce, rather than dismantle, gendered and racialized hierarchies. In 2019-20, there are 1,066 faculty members at MIT. Only 266 of them are women (178 are tenured; 88 are untenured; of all women only 21 are women of color). The Epstein situation has prompted many to question MIT's commitment to meaningful inclusion. Members of our community have been left feeling undervalued, deceived, and unsafe.

How will MIT respond? MIT leadership regularly describes and celebrates the fact that our values and diversity are essential to building a better world. Yet, to our great and heartfelt dismay, MIT's relationship with Epstein exposes a void where basic values should prevail, a cultural crisis that the administration must work to repair. Much needs to be done: from a thorough review of resource development practices and the inclusion of broader faculty participation in and oversight of fundraising, to providing robust support and resources to the women on campus. But that is just the beginning.

Former MIT President Chuck Vest is remembered for conducting a gender equity study in 1999, led by Professor Nancy Hopkins, and implementing many of its recommendations. How will the current MIT administration be remembered?

This letter originated with a small group of senior women faculty in SHASS and SAP at MIT. You can see the full list of signatories at concernedatmit.weebly.com.

A letter to President Reif regarding the Open Agriculture Initiative

Dear President Reif,

As published in the Chronicle of Higher Education, there are serious allegations of academic misrepresentation at the Open Agriculture Initiative at the MIT Media Lab. I have met with Dr. Babakinejad, quoted in the article, and he showed me documentation related to his environmental concerns about the Open Agriculture Initiative as well, including the illegal discharge of water containing high levels of nitrogen.

Prior to these allegations becoming public, both MIT Environmental Health and Safety and MIT's legal department were made aware of the environmental and academic allegations by Dr. Babakinejad. These serious issues were not properly addressed by MIT, and instead, Dr. Babakinejad faced retaliation for raising these concerns.

Given the seriousness of Dr. Babakinejad's complaints, I expect a full investigation by MIT and full accountability for the environmental violations and academic misrepresentations that are alleged. As an alumnus, I highly value MIT's reputation and would hate to see it further reduced through a failure to take action on these complaints by your administration. As a public official, I feel it is my duty to bring this matter to your attention and ask for an immediate and thorough response.

Sincerely,
Quinton Y. Zondervan, SM '95
Cambridge City Councillor

A letter to the MIT community on accepting donations

To the MIT community,

It is difficult to know what to do. The senior leadership team must have found it difficult to balance the pros and cons of taking money from Epstein, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and other bad actors. They must have struggled with comparing tangible benefits with intangible costs, with deciding where to draw the line, and with the choice to cross over that line without appearing to do so. I'm heartbroken that the senior team apparently spent more time discussing concerns about Epstein's reputation than about MIT's, when they took the drastic step of accepting money from a disqualified donor.

How many other times has this happened? Who are the other disqualified donors? Was money taken from them? Has the leadership team consulted with community members outside their privileged circle, including sexual assault victims, to understand the impact of their decisions? What happened to those people who expressed concerns?

The new College of Computing has adopted a mission statement calling it to address the social and ethical aspects of computing. That is putting the cart before the horse. We need to address the social and ethical aspects of leadership. We want our students to take ethics classes, but what about our leaders? How many of our senior team understood that taking dirty money to do clean work means destroying the community's trust? What do excellence, integrity, meritocracy, boldness, and humility mean now? Whose responsibility is it to make the world a better place?

To my friends who want to focus on the positive — for everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose. I don't feel ready to focus entirely on the positive, and I am not alone. Listen to the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., who said that the greatest stumbling block for African Americans is not the Ku Klux Klanner, "but the white moderate, who is more devoted to order than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice."

It is difficult to know what to do. But it is not difficult to know when one's personal values, and a community's stated values, have been violated.

— Edmund Bertschinger
Professor, Department of Physics
Faculty Affiliate, Program in Women's and Gender Studies

CORRECTIONS

An article in last week's issue about the faculty meeting misstated the name of the math professor who spoke at the meeting. She was Gigliola Staffilani, not Giulia Saccà.

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Publisher Áron Ricardo Perez-Lopez, Editor in Chief Jessica Shi, Managing Editor Ivana Alardin, Executive Editor Nathan Liang, and Opinion Editor Fiona Chen.

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STAFF COLUMN

What's wrong with accepting dirty money?

Cashing checks is not inherently wrong, but condoning donors' evil acts is

By Mark Goldman

One afternoon, while my lab was discussing MIT's Epstein scandal, a labmate admitted that he didn't see anything wrong with taking money from Epstein, and I see his point. If Epstein had to give away part of his wealth to the MIT Media Lab as a stipulation of his conviction in 2008, MIT cashing the check would not be immoral. But that's not what happened.

In 2008, Epstein was convicted, but he kept his wealth and evaded prison because of his esteemed connections. If in 2013 he had just sent a check to MIT for $800,000 without any other communication with MIT, and MIT cashed it, I would also think MIT had done nothing wrong. But again, that's not what happened.

As MIT accepted money from Epstein and his friends, we enhanced his friend circle and gave him an exclusive visit to our campus. We perpetuated Epstein's social safety net that helped him evade justice in 2008. And even worse, by our actions, we showed other billionaires that if they do untold damage to our community and the world, a donation to us will boost their social stature.

But these modern day indulgences are not limited to Epstein. Let's look at David Koch. Last month, the chair of the MIT Corporation called him a 'model philanthropist,' ignoring that he actively spread fake news about climate change and that he gave a smaller fraction of his wealth than the percent given by the average household living in poverty in the US. As the number of deaths from heat stroke creeps up with global warming, three buildings on campus honor the person who allowed these people to die. It was not taking money from Koch that was wrong. We are guilty for representing him as someone worthy of following, giving moral support to his climate science disinformation campaigns.

> **To change this, we need to align our practices with our values.**

Corporate sponsors are not exempt from MIT's preferential treatment either. The MIT Energy Initiative (MITEI) prominently displays the energy company BP as a founding member, showing news stories where BP works with MIT to suggest aggressive policy actions in combating climate change. Nowhere does MIT publicize that BP America contributed $12.8 million, more than any other organization, to stop the 2018 state ballot measure creating a fee on greenhouse gas emissions in Washington. BP paid MIT, and MIT produced deceptive publicity.

Numerous examples show that with the acceptance of money, MIT uses its name to help donors avoid public criticism by publishing on favorable topics and by giving them the social capital necessary to avoid justice. To change this, we need to align our practices with our values.

MIT's development office should balance pressuring donors to give more and convincing them to act with integrity. MIT News and departmental publications should release stories representing both sides of institute sponsors. MIT should be transparent about donation sources and regularly review how MIT publicizes large donors to make sure we are not biased. To make these changes, we need to convince the business-focused corporation members that achieving our mission is not measured with our revenue, endowment, or rankings. It comes from ensuring that all of our actions work to lift up humanity.

> **We are guilty for representing Koch as someone worthy of following.**

Some self-reflection can go a long way in seeing if we are meeting our goals. Has MIT contributed positively to curbing human trafficking? Has MIT moved our society toward taking action on climate change? Due to our history of supporting powerful patrons and letting them perpetuate their egregious acts, I don't think we can clearly say yes to either question. If MIT props up groups that actively work against us, our own donors will continue to thwart our dream of a better world. It's not accepting dirty money that's bad; it's that we change our behavior when we cash the check.

GUEST COLUMN

How MIT makes work-life balance impossible

As a graduate student, I've often had to sacrifice my health for my work

By Alyssa Rudelis

Each morning during the first January of graduate school, I woke up at 7 a.m. and left for the library with my heart pounding. The pounding remained in my stomach, throat, and head throughout the day. My appetite disappeared. I cried each evening after studying. Exhausted and demoralized, I thought of how I was letting my parents down. I was letting myself down. I fell asleep at 3 a.m., wholly spent. I got less and less sleep, and nothing I did calmed my anxiety. This continued every day for three weeks.

There was no way to win. I needed to prepare for the physics department's written qualifying exams, but attaining passing scores didn't seem possible with full-time research. I knew I was expected to complete fifty hours of lab training per week, but that would leave no time to study. Eventually, I stopped working in lab against the wishes of my group, and I prayed that passing the exams would be enough to keep me in the program.

Every physics graduate student at MIT must pass four written qualifying exams (or the equivalent class with a B+ or higher) to stay in the program after the first year and a half. If a student does not pass all the exams in this period, they go before a committee that typically forces them to "master out" of the PhD program (i.e. they are kicked out). The four exam topics are quantum mechanics, classical mechanics, statistical mechanics, and electricity and magnetism. While I happily received the coveted B+ in my quantum class, by the end of my first semester, I still had three written qualifying exams ahead of me.

When January of my first year rolled around, my advisor expressed concern that I hadn't passed all the exams. Research really started in the second year, he emphasized. He warned me against taking on extracurriculars that could prevent me from spending more time in the lab. In that meeting, I decided I would do anything to pass the final qualifying exams at the end of January to "prove myself," even if it meant stepping away from research.

> **My first year at MIT was terrible. But terrible, for MIT students, has become normalized.**

My advisor's concern haunted me. The older students around me were working 60+ hours per week solely on research. I often thought to myself: *Maybe I should be able to work in the lab full-time and study full-time simultaneously. Maybe I would be kicked out of MIT for not being enough. Maybe the pressure to do more would never disappear.* The criteria for success while juggling classes, qualifying exams, and research were not clear, and I was led to believe I would fail if I didn't perform well in all of my commitments.

My first year at MIT was terrible. But terrible, for MIT students, has become normalized.

At the time, I regretted not choosing Harvard over MIT. While my MIT classmates and I were worried about getting kicked out during our first year (roughly one in five MIT physicists do not graduate), my Harvard friends were in a much healthier environment. They were focused on rotating through research groups and studying advanced coursework to prepare them for research. The Harvard Physics Department does not expect their students to begin working for a lab during their first year and does not have written qualifying exams at all. And yet, their students are still world-class scientists when they graduate.

Graduate school at MIT lacks structure and clear expectations. There is no formalized relationship between students and their advisors, nor is there a requirement or expectation that advisors act as mentors. There is no contract or memorandum of understanding that standardizes work hours. This ambiguity benefits MIT and hurts its students. Without clear expectations, I cannot know what is damning enough to warrant my displacement. I cannot balance responsibilities or invest in my sanity because I have to give everything all the time. The alternative is to fail.

> **Graduate working conditions at MIT have a long way to go.**

I paid a heavy mental and emotional price to pass my qualifying exams. Unfortunately, the effect on my body did not magically evaporate after passing. That February, I sought mental health care for the first time in my life. MIT Medical referred me to a psychiatrist 30 minutes off campus, as my MIT student insurance does not cover closer therapists. When so much of my anxiety is a result of not having enough time, getting help should not mean losing precious hours.

Does taking four exams while doing full-time lab work really make us better scientists? Or are we forced through exam after exam and ambiguous working conditions because our professors went through similar training 30 years ago? There is a deeply-held belief at MIT that you can only be successful if you have nothing in life but research. This is a recipe for burnout, anxiety, and depression and is an outdated test of commitment. Many who designed this system went to graduate school in an era when their stay-at-home spouses made it possible to solely do research. This was an era when many pursuing academia had family wealth and rent control to fall back on. Today, the graduate student body largely does not fall into this privileged category. If we want to prove our commitment, there is little room to be human.

Graduate working conditions at MIT have a long way to go. However, the Institute can immediately make changes to its operation that will prevent other graduate students from having experiences like mine. When graduate student worth is defined by unhealthy working hours under minimal guidance, it's no surprise that mental health suffers. Laying out a framework for clear work and mentorship expectations between students and PIs and enforcing already established RA- and TA-ship hour limits are simple actions that MIT must take. I will continue to share my own experiences with my fellow graduate students. I implore MIT to recognize the real health implications of taking graduate student work — the foundation of MIT's world-class research — for granted.

Alyssa Rudelis is a second year PhD student in the physics department and a member of Graduate Students for a Healthy MIT, a mental health advocacy group.

Have something to say?
Write **opinion** for *The Tech*!
opinion@tech.mit.edu

ADVICE

Stressed-out senior

Supporting the MIT community, one query at a time: getting over job anxieties

By Tech Support

If you would like Tech Support to take a look at your problems, please submit them at http://bit.ly/techsupportadvice. Questions have been edited for length, clarity, and content.

Tech Support: Hello, how may I help you?

Reader: *As a senior, I'm starting to get a lot of questions about what I'm doing post-grad and I wish people would stop asking. I don't have my life together or know what I want to do (still need to find a job first), and sometimes I get really anxious about what I'm going to be doing this time next year. Career fair didn't help either, because they were mostly Course 6 companies. How can I feel less stressed about this?*

Tech Support: Addressing the first part of your question, people (especially older adults) often ask what you are doing after graduation as a conversation starter and often don't mean anything by it. I know it can be frustrating, but they may just be curious or simply have nothing else to say, so don't let it affect you too much.

My recommendation would be that you talk to more people. Ask your department for help, or talk to people you already know, such as professors. Talk to people you don't know as well, like alumni or connections of people you do know. People are often willing to help, and the value of talking to others — not just for your own information but also to start building your own network — is often underrated. I have been doing this myself lately, and while not every conversation will hit the jackpot, there is always something to learn each time, and I am often surprised by the people I end up connecting with who are willing to help me however they can if I only ask.

It can also be helpful to figure out what you like doing. Think about your past experiences and what you liked or absolutely hated about work, classes, and extracurriculars. Check in with yourself every so often to find out what energizes you in your daily life. More often than not, you will find that you have strengths and interests that are transferable to jobs. For instance, maybe you find that you really enjoy mentoring younger students in one of your clubs, or maybe you realize that you get energized and feel a lot better after talking to people as opposed to staying in your room. These are all insights that you can leverage during a job search, and they are qualities that are an asset to any company.

Lastly, don't fret about having seen all the Course 6 related companies at Career Fair, because the world needs non-Course 6 people too. Just because Course 6 is a majority doesn't mean that you are wrong for pursuing your path. And while you should put effort into figuring out post-graduation plans, don't stress out too much about it. Nobody else knows what they are doing either, even if they seem to have a job lined up already, and we're all really just trying to pretend that we have it together. As someone in your early 20s, you shouldn't be expected to have it all figured out, so just take a first step in a direction that seems right for you at this moment in time. Things will change, and that's alright.

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MIT Truly Better World Call to Action

Sign on at: http://bit.ly/joinatrulybetterMIT

To: The Executive Committee of the MIT Corporation

Cc: MIT Senior Leadership Team

On September 6th, 2019, *The New Yorker* published a disturbing report detailing the relationship between the Director of MIT Media Lab, Dr. Joi Ito, and **convicted child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein**. Despite knowledge of his conviction, **Ito allowed Epstein to make donations, solicit donations on behalf of the lab, and visit campus—bringing multiple victims along**. The presence of these young women was so unsettling to the women in the MIT Media Lab's staff that they "had a conversation [with the victims] about how, on the off chance that they're not there by choice, we could maybe help them." Following this article's publication, MIT leadership contracted the law firm Goodwin Procter to conduct an independent investigation, the preliminary findings of which have revealed distressing details.

MIT leadership's response, then and now, has been grossly negligent. In MIT President L. Rafael Reif's own words:

*When members of my senior team learned that the Media Lab had received the first of the Epstein gifts, they reached out to speak with Joi Ito. He asked for permission to retain this initial gift, and members of my senior team allowed it. They knew...that [Epstein] had been convicted and had served a sentence ... [and] asked Joi to agree to make clear to Epstein that he could not put his name on them publicly...**Epstein gifts were discussed at at least one of MIT's regular senior team meetings, and I was present.*** [bolded emphasis ours]

By allowing Ito to covertly accept money from Epstein, **Reif and the senior team demonstrated extreme indifference** towards Epstein's victims, survivors of sexual abuse both on and off campus, underage MIT students, and all of our students and staff. Further, in his letter to the MIT community, Reif additionally states:

[The] Goodwin Procter team has found a copy of a standard acknowledgment letter thanking Jeffrey Epstein for a gift to Seth Lloyd [the Nam Pyo Suh Professor of Mechanical Engineering]... I apparently signed this letter on August 16, 2012, about six weeks into my presidency.

This deeply concerning statement confirms that Ito's behavior was not isolated among the faculty body. By allowing **multiple faculty members to accept Epstein's gifts,** as long as it could be hidden from public view, MIT Leadership **opened the doors on our campus to him**; their prior claims of ignorance are astounding. In addition, some of these gifts were accepted while MIT was actively under investigation for sexual misconduct and harassment violation under Title IX by the Office of Civil Rights.

The action and inaction taken by MIT leadership and faculty has been egregious. **MIT leadership and faculty have moral and legal responsibilities to protect students from sexual abuse while on campus.** It is unforgivable that any MIT faculty member would bring a man convicted of sexual crimes against children to campus and allow him to bring sex trafficking victims with him on his visit. By allowing such behavior on our campus, **MIT has endorsed human trafficking and endangered MIT students**.

While we applaud the many courageous responses from the MIT faculty and staff, including those of over 60 senior woman faculty, Kate Darling, J. Nathan Matias, and Ethan Zuckerman, some responses have caused us to **question whether our faculty truly take sexual abuse and student safety seriously**. Media Lab co-founder and Chairman Emeritus Nicholas Negroponte defended Ito's decision, stating that, had he been privy to discussions then, he would've told Ito to "take it." At the most recent faculty meeting, Professor Yossi Sheffi appeared to express concern that a commitment to ethical fundraising could "ruin entrepreneurship at MIT." Deceased Professor Marvin Minsky was identified as a participant in Epstein's trafficking during a deposition this August. Richard Stallman, prominent open source advocate and computer scientist, defended Minsky regarding his alleged abuse of Epstein's underaged girls (he has since resigned from his positions at CSAIL and the Free Software Foundation). Further, Epstein's influence continues to hinder the ability of women students and staff members to access their education and work. His legacy continues to push students out of the MIT Media Lab, as students, staff, and faculty alike feel compelled to cut ties; as a result, MIT and the Media Lab are diminished.

Rather than break ties with Epstein, **Reif and other members of the MIT senior leadership team worked to hide them**—a tacit endorsement of Epstein and his behavior. While we acknowledge that President Reif and his senior leadership team did not personally invite Epstein themselves, **they are culpable for his visits and the MIT community deserves to know which members of the senior team were involved.** Women and children, MIT affiliated or not, cannot be acceptable collateral damage in MIT's pursuit of funds.

Therefore, we call for the following actions to help our community heal and move forward:

1. **Dr. L. Rafael Reif** must **resign** as President of MIT, effective as soon as a suitable replacement (or interim replacement) can be found.
2. All members of **MIT Senior Leadership** who were aware of Epstein's donations must **resign**.
3. **The Executive Committee** must instruct Goodwin Procter to **make public all relevant documents and findings** from the independent investigation, as well as the terms of that investigation.
4. Form a **Standing Committee on Ethical Fundraising** including students, alumni, faculty, and staff, with key roles held by **human rights defenders** and **sexual violence survivor advocates** to:
    a. **Identify specific actions** MIT should take to hold those involved in soliciting, approving and covering up Epstein funding accountable, including publicly acknowledging the harm done to his victims and our community.
    b. **Publish a public report on MIT's current fundraising policies**, outlining their strengths and weaknesses and recommending changes to avoid future harmful fundraising decisions.
    c. **Create a framework for ethical fundraising,** including guidelines on funding transparency, to proactively address sexual abuse and human rights issues among donors. These guidelines and frameworks should position MIT as a leader in ethical fundraising rather than complicit in harm to victims and community members.

We call on President Reif and his senior team to reflect on his own words when introducing The MIT Campaign for a Better World: "MIT's greatest invention may be itself—an unusual concentration of unusual talent, restlessly reinventing itself on a mission to make a better world." **Such a Better World will require courageous new leadership** in the areas of sexual and gender based violence, women's rights, and human rights; courageous leadership that President Reif and those on his senior team have not demonstrated. In such a Better World, women and gender minorities are free to work, do research, and create knowledge without fear of harassment, assault, or retaliation. Instead, far from striving towards a better future, in accepting money and cultivating connections with Jeffrey Epstein, **MIT's senior administrators have betrayed our ideals and our community in service of short-term financial gain**; their actions directly harmed Epstein's victims, survivors in our community, and women in STEM. Their decisions created a profound sense of fractured trust for many in our community. However, with or without MIT's leadership, we acknowledge and admire the courage of the whistleblowers on the Epstein case, and demand that MIT take action to move us toward the better world the victims and our community deserve. We hope the MIT Corporation will heed our call and join us on the first steps towards healing and rebuilding.

Signed,

Concerned Members of the MIT Community

Letter: http://bit.ly/TrulyBetterMIT

Sign On: bit.ly/joinatrulybetterMIT

Angela E. Kilby '07, PhD '16
Ann M. Mailhot '89
Anna Marie Syed '99
Ava Chen '17
Avital Baral '20
Banti Gheneti '17, MNG '19
Brooke Jarrett '10
Byron Xu '21
Caroline Figgatt '11
Catherine Yunis '16
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Lillian Chin '17, SM '19, G
Lillian McKinley '15
Manny Alicandro MBA '18
Marianna Parker '00
Monica Linden '02, PhD '08
Nadia T. Madden '00
Nina Yang '15
Nur Majida Shahir '10
P. M. Kraft PhD '17
Priya Kikani '17
Priya Moni PhD '18
Rasa K. Fuller '96
Richard Carthew PhD '87
Robert A. Wolfe PhD '81
Shuo Zhang '06, SM '07
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Sophia Gershon '19
Vicki Crosson '16
Zahra Khan SM '08

ART EXHIBIT REVIEW

Beautiful footprints

Yayoi Kusama's *Love is Calling* attempts to immerse viewers

By Ryan Conti

"Hoping to leave beautiful footprints at the end of my life / I spend each day praying that my wish will be fulfilled." This line comes from Yayoi Kusama's poem "Residing in a Castle of Shed Tears." The poem accompanies her installation at the ICA, "Love is Calling."

With "Love is Calling," Yayoi stamps another beautiful footprint into the sandy beach of her oeuvre. The exhibit is a piece of environmental art that attempts to immerse viewers, who enter a room that contains only three things: spotless mirrors on every surface, tentacle-like sculptures that dance with neon gradients, and themselves. The viewer's place in the installation is especially emphasized to prompt introspection, although this detracts from the piece's immersive capabilities.

Upon entry, "Love is Calling" breaks expectations. The pulsing sculptures are even more vibrant in person than in video.

COURTESY OF ICA BOSTON

Yayoi Kusama's *Love is Calling* arrives at the ICA in September to bring an immersive, kaleidoscopic environment.

The murky reflective material on the floor and ceiling gives the sense that a pristine world laden with effulgent stalagmites and stalactites lies just beyond the room. At the same time, the synthy lo-fi beats that one might assume to be concomitant with such minimalist, psychedelic figures are nowhere to be found. In their place is the poised voice of Yayoi Kusama reciting "Residing in a Castle of Shed Tears" in Japanese against the whir of air pumps that presumably breath life into the tentacle sculptures.

Despite the installation's breathtaking beauty, it is not as immersive as one might predict. Surrounded by brilliant lights and immaculate mirrors that stretch off into infinity, it becomes impossible to escape your own presence. Your dully-toned human body stands stark amongst Yayoi's forest of fireworks. As a result, it remains tough to imagine experiencing any profound, extrasensory episodes that might otherwise accompany some other environmental installation.

Although you won't have any life-changing visions, it would be disingenuous to say that "Love is Calling" fails to encourage introspection. While the mirrors don't immerse you in Yayoi's astral jungle, they direct your attention back onto yourself, as mirrors do. Because of how much you stand out in the installation, you may begin to question what your place is in this art exhibit — why you belong there — and from that first question, run through a slew of existential interrogations about nature, art, and life. Why do humans make art? Why did a human make this specific piece of art? Does this art exhibit truly exist? Do I truly exist? How has this art been incorporated into my life now that I have seen it? Questions like these are hefty, but they are forced upon you with utter abandon.

A joint exhibit is shown alongside "Love is Calling," entitled "Beyond Infinity: Contemporary Art after Kusama." The exhibit places several of Yayoi's works next to pieces by artists that she inspired and was inspired by: Louise Bourgeois, Nick Cave, Ana Mendieta, and Eva Hesse are a few of the biggest names present. Together, the artworks reveal a shared trait of indulgent, almost fractal, minimalism among Yayoi and her contemporaries. They also offer a welcome refuge after exiting the disorienting space of "Love is Calling," although perhaps a bittersweet one.

Love is Calling

Yayoi Kusama

The Institute of Contemporary Art

On display until Feb. 28, 2021

MOVIE REVIEW

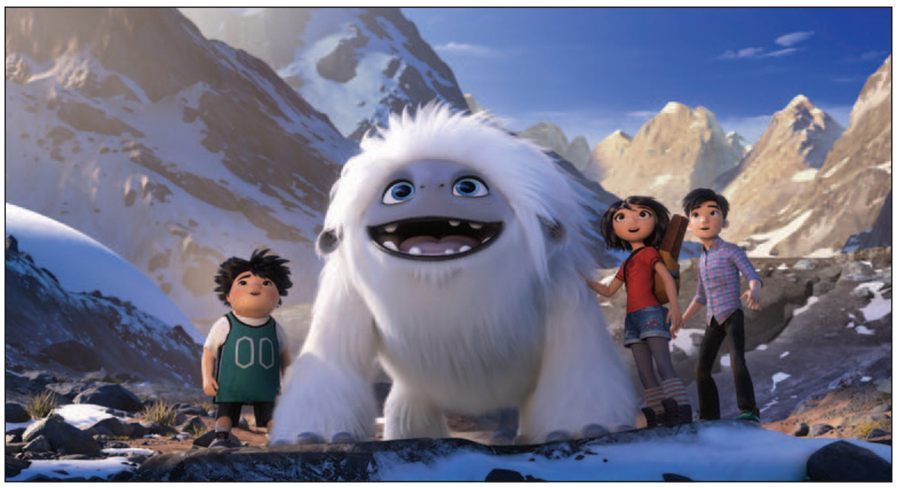
Abominable plays it safe

Family-friendly movie offers no surprises

By Erika Yang and Rona Wang

Abominable spins the heartwarming tale of a young girl, Yi (Chloe Bennet), who is coping with the loss of her father while navigating her way across China with her neighbors and a not-so-mythical yeti.

The yeti, Everest (Joseph Izzo), is trying to find his way back home to Mt. Everest after escaping from captivity. He lands himself on the roof of Yi's apartment and through peace offerings of Nainai's pork buns and music, Yi and Everest develop a charming friendship and help one another find the missing parts of themselves. Joining them on the adventure are Yi's neighbors, lovable basketball fan Peng (Albert Tsai) and smooth-talking ladies' man Jin (Tenzing Norgay Trainor).



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Peng (Albert Tsai), Everest, Yi (Chloe Bennet) and Jin (Tenzing Norgay Trainor) travel through the mountains in DreamWorks Animation and Pearl Studio's *Abominable*.

The plot itself is nothing remarkable: it's a road adventure sprinkled with sinister authorities, clueless civilian bystanders, and culturally-sound landmarks. Our protagonists find themselves in various fantastical situations set against real locations like the Leshan Giant Buddha as they race against the villains to return Everest home. There's a magical sequence or two thanks to the animation, which is the film's strongest area. And the stunning animation and endearing characters are enough to keep the movie chugging along to its unsurprising, but heartwarming conclusion. The visual effects conjure up a China brimming with mist and wonder — a far cry from its invented persona in the American imagination, which is so often insidious or industrial.

And while its cultural nuances will be familiar to any Chinese-American viewer, *Abominable,* unlike other recent major motion pictures set in Asia, does not situate itself as an Asian-American film. Unlike *Crazy Rich Asians* or *The Farewell*, *Abominable's* narrative is universal; it just happens to be set in China. This does cause for some raised eyebrows. For example, Jin is on the cusp of college, on track to become a pre-med, even though medical schools in China do not require an undergraduate degree.

★★★☆☆

Abominable

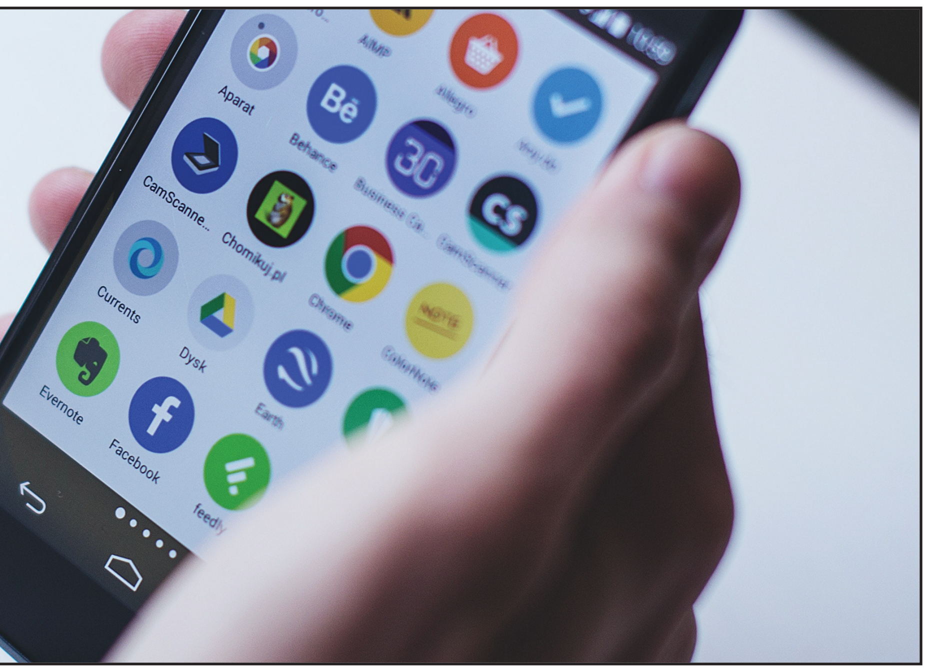
Directed by Jill Culton, Todd Wilderman

Screenplay by Jill Culton

Starring Chloe Bennet, Albert Tsai, Tenzing Norgay Trainor, Joseph Izzo, Sarah Paulson

Rated PG, Playing Sept. 27

Abominable plays it safe in its storytelling and direction. Yi's grief is subdued; the movie asks no difficult questions about loss or love. The dialogue is clever enough, but not memorable. The voice acting was strong throughout, crafting believable relationships among all the characters. It's a movie designed for children, but it can be enjoyed by anyone looking for a feel-good, family-friendly movie.



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THEATER REVIEW

‘Cleave to no faith when faith brings blood’

Bedlam presents a hair-raising, heart-pounding psychological thriller set in our backyard

★★★★★

The Crucible

Written by Arthur Miller

Directed by Eric Tucker

Central Square Theater

Sept. 12–Oct. 13

By Alexandra Sourakov

STAFF WRITER

Arthur Miller did not undertake the writing of *The Crucible* as a mere exercise in historical fiction. In the 1950s, in the midst of the trials of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, he was only too keenly ruminating on certain phenomena of human behavior. Events that make you wonder why no one stepped in, why no one called out the ludicrous and harkened society back to reason. Moments when victims have no rational means to defend themselves and accusers stand only to gain from pointing their fingers.

Director Eric Tucker immerses us into the claustrophobic confines of a little village, not too far from here, where the Salem witch trials took place. And you won’t get to slink away into the anonymity of a quiescent audience member. You’re one of the villagers, but far enough removed that you can observe the hysteria without fearing for your life. Before the play starts, you’re sucked into the small-town atmosphere as the actors stroll through the audience, shaking hands, warmly welcoming you, and asking after your health. Throughout the play, the audience is the ubiquitous “Crowd” that is inevitably present in the town square, in the courtroom, in the bedroom. The actors will make you feel like they are speaking directly to you, making eye contact, and projecting their indignation or vehemence towards you in courtroom speeches and personal appeals.

Very soon, you feel that you *know* these townspeople. Not only do you know their quirks and their habits, but you feel that they are characters that you’ve met in your own life. You know how many children Ann Putnam has buried, how many times Giles Corey has taken someone to court, and how often John Proctor goes to church. The characters Miller creates (some historical, some fictional) aren’t mouthpieces for his opinions or cardboard cutouts — they’re complex, realistic, flawed, idealistic. But this multifaceted nature of the characters wouldn’t come through if it weren’t buttressed by the nuanced interpretations and forceful performances of the Bedlam actors.

John Proctor’s wife, Elizabeth Proctor (Susannah Millonzi), is a quiet, determined force of nature with ironclad principles and unshakeable loyalty to her husband. When she’s tested in ways she couldn’t have imagined, Millonzi conjures before us a fiery spirit in a frail frame, who inspires strength in us and in her husband in his darkest moments. Her performance is perfectly juxtaposed with Truett Felt’s, who plays a chilling Abigail Williams, the merciless ringleader of this charade. Through a chilled-ice exterior, pixieish Felt is able to shine thin piteous rays of a capricious, heartbroken young girl who is beginning to lose her grip on reality.

Eric Tucker features in the show as Reverend Hale, whose transformation over the course of the play is a study in character development. Hale starts out as the authoritative, charismatic neighbourhood pastor confidently guiding his flock down the path of righteousness. He is familiar and slightly patronizing to everyone he meets, putting his arms around their shoulders, smiling indulgently at their wayward ways, punctiliously whipping out his little spiral bound notebook and pencil. He is unwavering in his belief that he bears his adopted town “gifts of high religion.”

As the pressure and the stakes mount, he begins to stumble and hesitate. His speech slows as the reality of the situation and his role in it dawns upon him. He stumbles back onto the scene in the second act, in mental and physical disarray, keeping himself in body and mind removed from others. His will is wholly focused on one goal: saving as many of those he unwittingly damned as he can. Tucker builds up a portrait of a man who is trying to salvage what he can from a once cohesive, watertight worldview. He is a man of goodwill who realizes he is wrong but who no longer has the power to stop the machine he helped set in motion.

At the same time, as Hale’s conviction starts to waver, that of Deputy Governor Danforth (Joshua Wolf Coleman) ossifies into a steely righteousness. Danforth is a monster, but he wouldn’t be a very scary monster if he weren’t made so believable by Coleman as a well-educated, well-meaning, self-important adjudicator. He wouldn’t evoke such frustration if he didn’t come so close to saving the day. He disappoints precisely because he didn’t have to. Coleman projects the image of a benevolent tyrant who is habituated to wielding authority and influence. He browbeats, cajoles, and shames, his temples throbbing, his temper barely in check, constantly frustrated at the lack of cooperation from his victims.

NILE SCOTT STUDIOS

Townspeople and adjudicators gather around Reverend Hale (Eric Tucker) as he reads, “Here is all the invisible world, caught, defined, and calculated.”

The plot is meticulously constructed so as to present a series of difficult moral decisions with weighty consequences and no right answer. As director, Tucker gets the pacing just right, allowing each climax a steady rise, a dizzying pause at the top, and a reinless descent into the ensuing bedlam. At each crossroads, you’re left squirming in your seat. *What will they do? What would* I *do? What is the* right *thing to do?*

As John Proctor, Ryan Quinn dissects the nature of this man before us, peeling away layer by layer of the character. At first glance, a simple laborer without strong religious convictions, then a repentant sinner, and finally a man who values his name more than a life without honor. By the end, Quinn has sketched in charcoal the image of a productive, heroic man who loves life and who yearns to live in the most honorable way he can, but is not able to choose life in the face of the destructive nature of his adversaries. Miller’s powerful monologues need an equally spectacular conduit, and they find it in Quinn.

The decisions, dawning realizations, and rationalizations pile on top of each other, heightening the feeling of claustrophobia achieved by the minimalist but effective stage design. The cramped space of the room cut into the wall, the disproportionately small furniture, and the spartan decor amplify the notion of the inhumane and the absurd. In the second half, the cut-out room is hidden with a sheet to create a stark courtroom with microphones and setup reminiscent of the McCarthy era. Lamps wielded in an exaggeratedly interrogatory manner were used to great effect for enhancing the association and inserting wedges of humor even in dark moments.

The only ungainly moments in the production were the transitions between scenes. Pregnant pauses with solitary characters on stage were a bit awkward, making one expect a blackout or a monologue, neither of which were forthcoming. There were a couple gestures that may have been symbolic but their ambiguity distracted from rather than added to the play. One scene began in so incomprehensible and drawn-out a manner that I had no idea what was going on. It seems to have been Danforth’s dream, but apart from demonstrating that the events of the play were entering his subconscious, I do not see what purpose it served.

The Crucible is a poignant reminder that the villains are not only those who yell the loudest, but those who bestow their sanction on the accusers. Despite the deeply moving nature of the play and its reflections on the cyclic nature of history, the Miller/Tucker duo penetrate the gloom with blazing streaks of humor and uplifting odes to the heroism of man. Bedlam makes this play shine through its thoughtful, textured realization of the characters, its sustained suspense as the plot unfurls, and its intimate engagement with the audience.

FOOD TRUCK REVIEW

The true price of chocolate

Tony’s Chocolonely brings slavery-free chocolate to raise consciousness

By Rona Wang and Mahi Shafiullah

STAFF WRITERS

Have you ever thought about suing yourself? If you knew the story of Tony’s Chocolonely, you will know sometimes that’s necessary to make a point. We visited the Chocolonely Chocotruck to taste some chocolates, but what we got instead was a whirlwind tour of dark practices in something so seemingly wholesome that we rarely ever think twice about it — chocolate production and the use of slavery in it.

We visited the Chocotruck on a gray Thursday afternoon. We were disappointed in some sense because what met us there was less of a food truck and more of a pop-up exhibition. We got a chance to hear about how Tony’s Chocolonely came about: fifteen years ago, Dutch journalist Teun van de Keuken began investigating the unethical practices surrounding chocolate production in West Africa. After speaking to former child slaves, he decided to raise awareness about the issue by consuming chocolate, then turning himself in to authorities. The authorities refused to prosecute him, so he hired a lawyer and sued himself. In 2005, while waiting for the court decision, the first Tony’s Chocolonely bars were made. Eventually, the court judge decided not to prosecute van de Keuken, but Tony’s Chocolonely continued to sell fair trade chocolate around the world.

The chocolate bars don’t taste that different from off-the-shelf bars, but perhaps that is also part of the point. We got a chance to sample eight of their nine different bars; the flavors ranged from milk chocolate to dark milk pretzel toffee. The flavor was similar to that of Hershey’s. It was not overly sweet, but pleasant and smooth. Several bars had nuts embedded in them, offering a crispy crunch. The caramel sea salt milk chocolate was a standout, with a wonderful balance of intermingling flavors. One must wonder, with competitors offering similar products at a much cheaper price point (one 6.35 oz bar of Tony’s costs $5.50), if the feel-good origin story is enough to entice consumers.

crazy about chocolate, serious about people
TOGETHER
WE MAKE
TONY'S CHOCOLONELY
TONY'S CHOCOLONELY

SARAH CLIMACO—THE TECH

Tony’s Chocolonely Chocotruck presents a variety of ethically sourced chocolate options.

CONCERT REVIEW

Grace VanderWaal headlines ‘Ur So Beautiful’ tour

VanderWaal is a wonder. Her concert, not so much

Grace VanderWaal
Royale Nightclub
279 Tremont Street
Boston, MA
Sept. 13

By Rona Wang
STAFF WRITER

Grace VanderWaal, 15-year-old wunderkind, sweeps in amidst cheers and a swell of percussion. Fog billows across the stage. In the orange-lit haze, VanderWaal, with her signature ukulele and ash-blonde braids, appears almost elfin.

Perhaps the fairytale look is appropriate, given her Cinderella-esque story. At age 12, she was catapulted to viral fame by her *America’s Got Talent* audition; the YouTube clip boasts nearly 100 million views to date. She proceeded to win the 2016 season, then fulfilled the meteoric rise to fame promised by reality show competitions everywhere: she released a full-length album, opened for Imagine Dragons on tour, and will star in Disney’s *Stargirl* next year, all before getting her driver’s license.

Her age is evident in her music, which doesn’t strive to emulate the life experiences that her professional peers often sing of. She veers far from the more adult themes that dominate modern pop, instead committing to youthful candor. “Damn, you’re so beautiful/And don’t you know it?” she asks in her tour’s eponymous song “Ur So Beautiful.” The question is purportedly posed towards a love interest, but it’s meant for the audience, too. She follows with “Escape My Mind,” an upbeat, bright-toned romp through frustrations familiar to anyone ever afflicted with a high school crush. “Clearly” is a warbling marvel: each note undulates with remarkable control. “Moonlight,” four minutes of pure summer fun, is my favorite of the night. Its infectious beat, underpinned by acoustic ukulele, gives way to urgency as VanderWaal sings of a friend who is “about to break.” She reminisces about happier times, recalling that “the light in your eyes/Made it feel like we were dancing in the moonlight.”

Unfortunately, VanderWaal’s frank lyricism and ebullient sound is marred by factors likely outside of her control. The venue floor is mysteriously sticky, no seating is provided, and the live band smothers VanderWaal’s vocals. Her soft fingerpicking and raspy voice, perfect for long car rides and lazy afternoons, doesn’t quite translate to a stage replete with neon spotlights and crescendo after crescendo.

KEVIN LY—THE TECH

Grace VanderWaal performs at the Royale Nightclub for her ‘Ur So Beautiful’ tour.

CONCERT REVIEW

The Boston Symphony Orchestra’s opening night was a rollercoaster of varied enjoyability

The BSO’s 139th opening night was solid and full of striking performances, but not consistently riveting

Week 1: *Poulenc’s “Concerto for Two Pianos” and “Gloria,” Beethoven’s “Fantasia,” and Nathan’s “Concerto for Orchestra”*
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Conducted by Andris Nelsons
Boston Symphony Hall
Sept. 19-21

By Selena Feng and Valeria Robayo

The opening night of the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s 139th season began with the delicate first notes of Poulenc’s "Concerto for two pianos in D minor," courtesy of Dutch brothers Lucas and Arthur Jussen, two pianists who are wildly accomplished for their young age. Despite the youthful exuberance they exhibited when they (quite literally) ran onstage mere minutes before director Andris Nelsons raised his baton, it quickly became evident that the pair of them have great musical maturity. Poulenc’s concerto demands that the soloists play almost continuously, often without orchestral accompaniment, with several sections of a call-and-response-like dialogue that requires precise coordination between the two pianists. The Jussen brothers handled the dialogue so seamlessly that had there not been two pianos visibly located at the front of the stage, one could have easily believed that there was only one person creating the beautiful sounds rising through Symphony Hall. The brothers executed the shifts in mood with grace, easily transitioning from the dreamy Allegro movement to a more tension-filled Larghetto movement, and ending in the energetic Allegro molto movement. Meanwhile, the orchestra, featuring the woodwinds, brass, and percussion, provided a beautiful accompaniment. The piece ended in an uproarious and well-deserved standing ovation, setting a standard for the rest of the evening.

Next came Beethoven’s "Choral Fantasy in C minor for piano, chorus, and orchestra, Op. 80," which the composer wrote as a finale for his December 1808 *Akademie* benefit concert and featured Beethoven himself soloing (and even improvising) on the piano. Arthur Jussen came back onstage to solo, starting off the piece with the beautifully dramatic, Adagio piano movement that transitioned into a lighter, run-heavy C major section. The orchestra soon joined Jussen for the Allegro movement, and as the piece modulated between C minor and C major, and eventually to an A major section that featured the horns and the double reeds, the soloist and the orchestra both demonstrated impressive range. The C major and A major sections were bright, lively, and full of joy, but still interesting and nuanced, while the C minor sections were played with great flair and energy.

The rest of the piece unfolded in a wave-like pattern, modulating between keys and slowly building up the tension until the choir finally burst in with majestic fervor. Written in German, the song’s lyrics praised the uplifting power of music and the arts on the human soul. The choir escalated through the next few moments armed with fricative phonetics and strong intonations, the vivacity of their sound in perfect synergy with the theme embedded in the translated libretto. The vocal soloists soon joined this proud crescendo, their powerful and young voices adding an especially effervescent tone to the dynamic piece. Alexandra Smither and Paulina Swierczek amazed the crowd with their impressive vocal acrobatics while Katherine Maysek imbued the performance with a rich and expressive timbre.

The third piece of the night was the world premiere of composer Eric Nathan's "Concerto for Orchestra," which was commissioned by the BSO and dedicated to Nathan's parents and composer Sven-David Sandström. The concerto began with a literal bang of the cymbals, followed by raucous, angry sounds from the brass that resembled the aggressive blare of a truck horn. The trombone slides were particularly jarring, and the only real benefit of opening the piece with such an entrance was that any audience members who had fallen asleep during the previous piece would be jolted awake. The rest of the piece proceeded to assault the listener’s ears without mercy, interrupted only by occasional lyrical phrases that added an interesting level of complexity to the piece. By the end of the performance, we were slightly confused — feeling glad that the uncomfortably inharmonious cacophony of sounds had ended, but also appreciative of its cohesive and coordinated execution. The concerto was doubtlessly well rehearsed and skillfully composed, but we personally would not pay to listen to a piece that reminds us of a highway brimming with traffic.

The final performance was Poulenc's "Gloria"for soprano solo, mixed chorus, and orchestra, one of the composer's most acclaimed works. This piece, usually sung at Latin Mass on festive occasions, is considered one of the greatest prose hymns of Christian literature and ended the opening night with a resplendent tone. In the first few seconds, the trumpets proudly marched in, calling to mind a powerful monarch entering a grandiose ballroom. Soon after, the choir joined in, contributing to the grandeur of the atmosphere.

When Nicole Cabell finally made her entrance, her first note amazed the crowd with its clarity and power. The soloist’s part was characterized by its solemnity and contrasting tones, smoothly transitioning from the orchestra’s more flamboyant performance. Throughout the piece, each of the soloist’s phrases closely resembled each other, starting out low and ominous and building up to a direly high note. Cabell’s performance was remarkable in the way she carefully handled each vibrato, delivering each note with the perfect amount of expression without going overboard. Cabell’s soft ending notes carried throughout the concert hall and provided a satisfying conclusion that integrated seamlessly into the BSO’s overall performance.

WINSLOW TOWNSON

Pianists Arthur and Lucas Jussen perform with Andris Nelsons and the BSO in the Poulenc Double Piano Concerto.

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Otterhound

Solution, page 16

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				6		2		3
	6	4				3		
8	2						7	6
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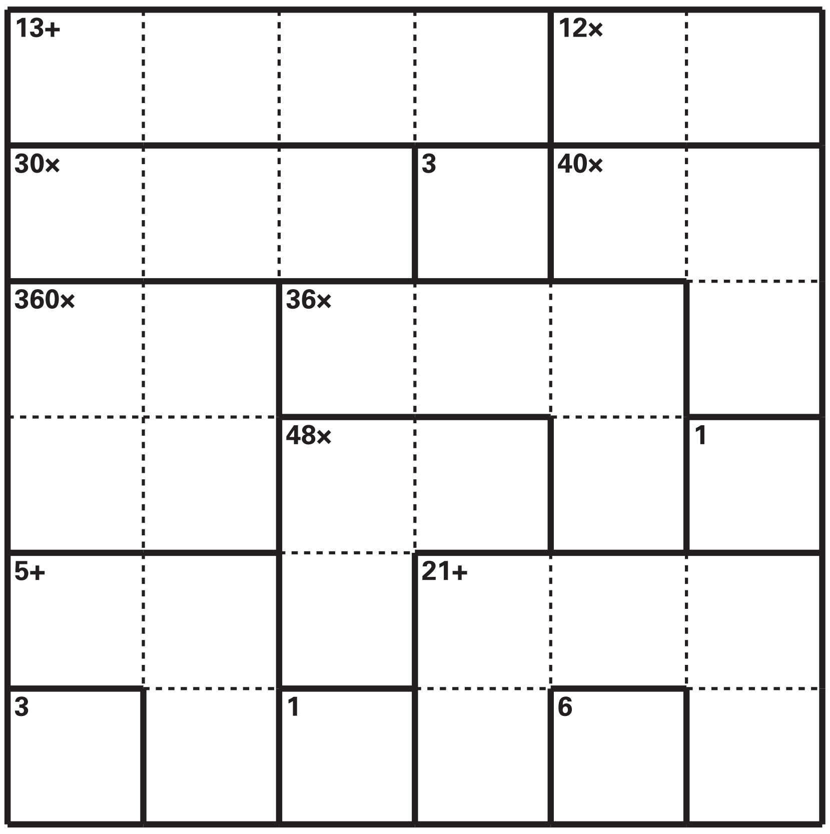
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Komondor

Solution, page 16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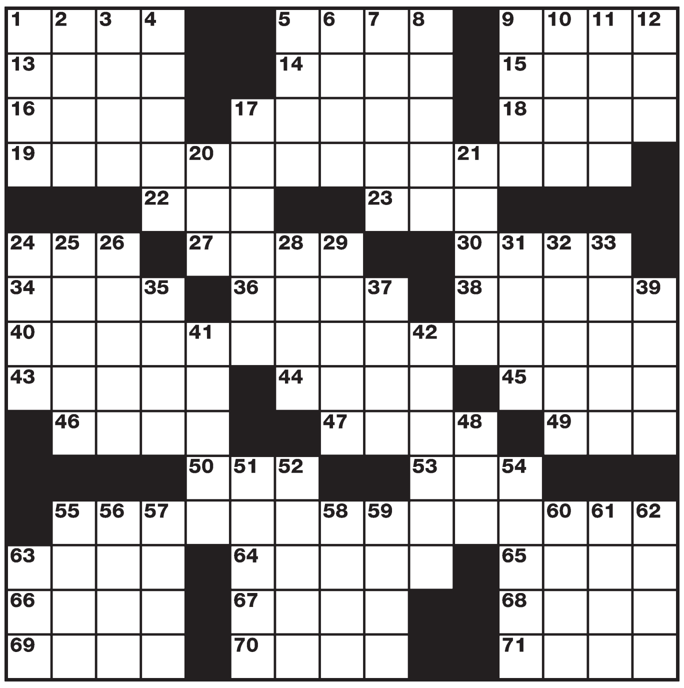
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

The Usual

by Brad Wilbur

Solution, page 16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46 47 48 49
50 51 52 53 54
55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62
63 64 65
66 67 68
69 70 71

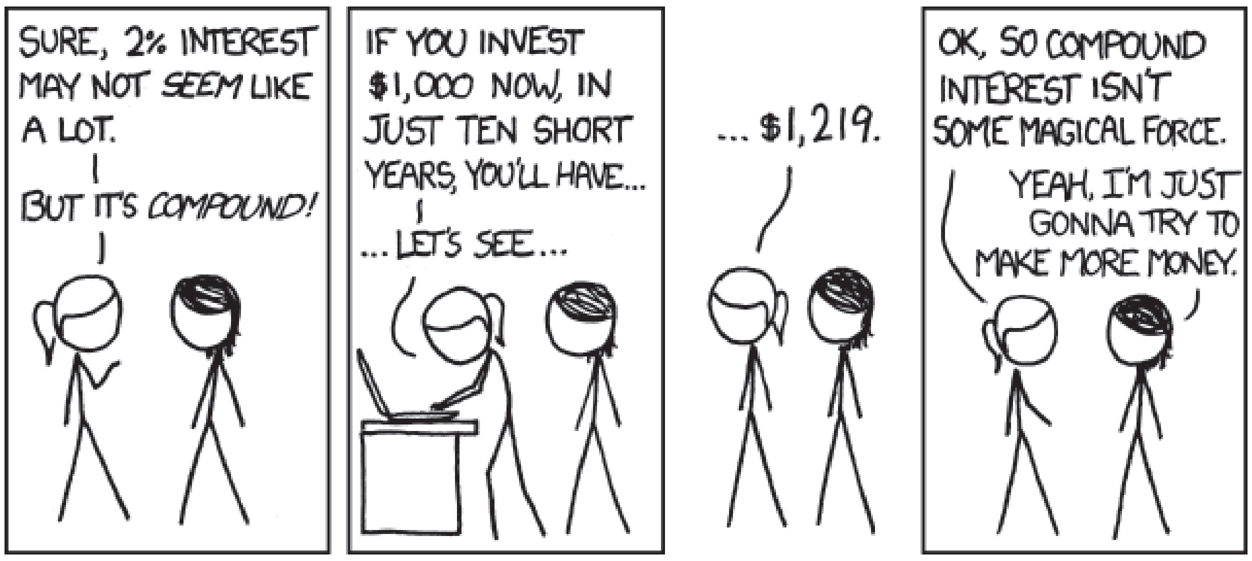
ACROSS
1 Starting poker stake
5 Advise strongly
9 Kindergarten basics
13 Baby deer
14 "Of course!"
15 Faucet drip
16 In the thick of
17 __ Pan (Neverland flyer)
18 Simple
19 Basic job for a barber
22 Butter portion
23 Golf peg
24 Fuel efficiency no.
27 Bubble __ (packer's cushioning)
30 Grand scale film
34 "That's a shame!"
36 Cleveland's state
38 Highway paths
40 Basic exam from a doctor
43 Narrowly defeated
44 Restaurant's listing
45 Deceptive tactic
46 "Half" prefix for final
47 Lopsided victory
49 Color of rubies
50 Tree with acorns
53 "I agree"
55 Basic good manners
63 Optimistic feeling
64 Kingdom
65 Neck of the woods
66 Notion
67 Story that might be "tall"
68 Part of a necklace chain
69 Minor fender damage
70 High-ranking naval officers: Abbr.
71 Allows

DOWN
1 A long way off
2 Give a title to
3 Small tree branch
4 Ultimately become
5 Computer purchaser
6 Baseball great Babe __
7 __ Dane (large dog)
8 Spooky
9 Actor Baldwin
10 Boyfriend
11 Play's performing group
12 Where clouds form
17 Store's customer
20 Attorney's expertise
21 Fishing line holders
24 Colt's mother
25 Walks wearily
26 Speedometer or odometer
28 Throat-clearing sound
29 Pied __ (legendary rat remover)
31 Twosome
32 Acquire, as expenses
33 Discontinue
35 Flower stalk
37 "How terrible!"
39 Vehicle ridden on snow
41 "Talk turkey" or "Chicken out"
42 "So delicious!"
48 The middle of 24 Across
51 Artery from the heart
52 Massage, as bread dough
54 Try to delay
55 Secret writing
56 Unlock
57 Beef or pork
58 Serene
59 Spanish cheers
60 A Great Lake
61 Placed in the mail
62 Gabs too much
63 Concealed

A webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language

by Randall Munroe

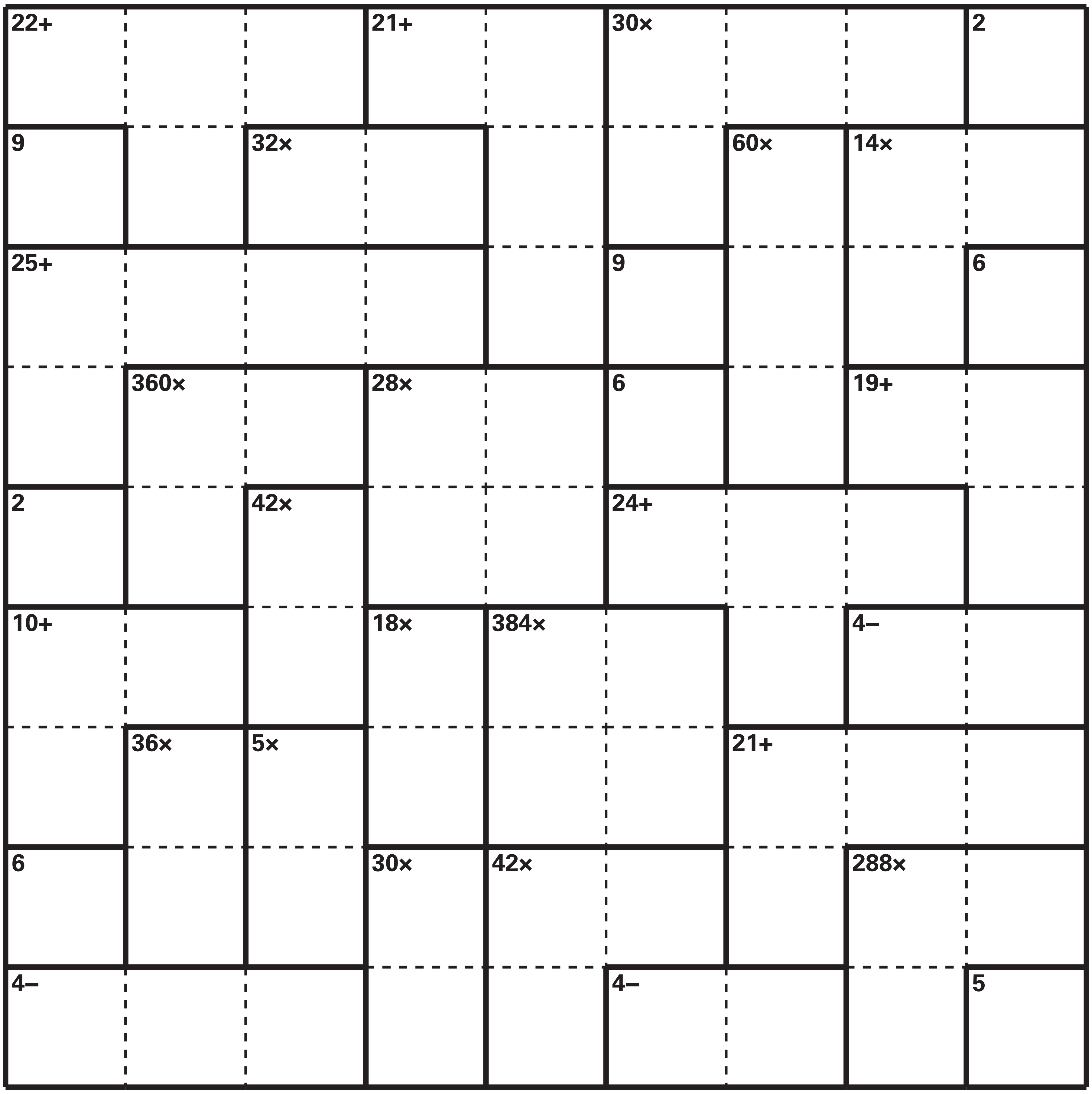
[947] Investing


SURE, 2% INTEREST MAY NOT SEEM LIKE A LOT.
BUT IT'S COMPOUND!
IF YOU INVEST $1,000 NOW, IN JUST TEN SHORT YEARS, YOU'LL HAVE...
...LET'S SEE...
...$1,219.
OK, SO COMPOUND INTEREST ISN'T SOME MAGICAL FORCE.
YEAH, I'M JUST GONNA TRY TO MAKE MORE MONEY.

But Einstein said it was the most powerful force in the universe, and I take all my investment advice from flippant remarks by theoretical physicists making small talk at parties.

Plague

Solution, page 16

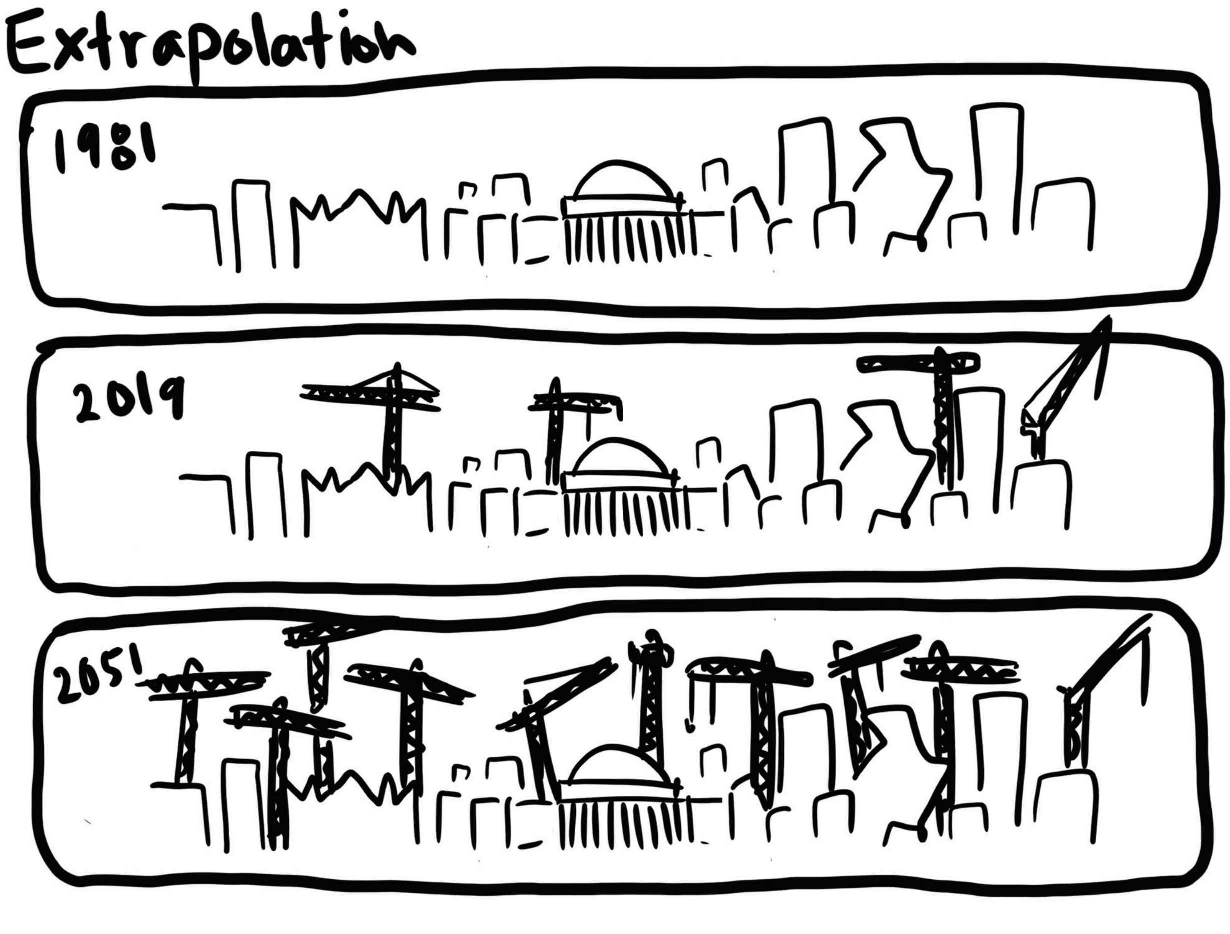

22+
21+
30×
2
9
32×
60×
14×
25+
9
6
360×
28×
6
19+
2
42×
24+
10+
18×
384×
4–
36×
5×
21+
6
30×
42×
288×
4–
4–
5

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

ihtfp

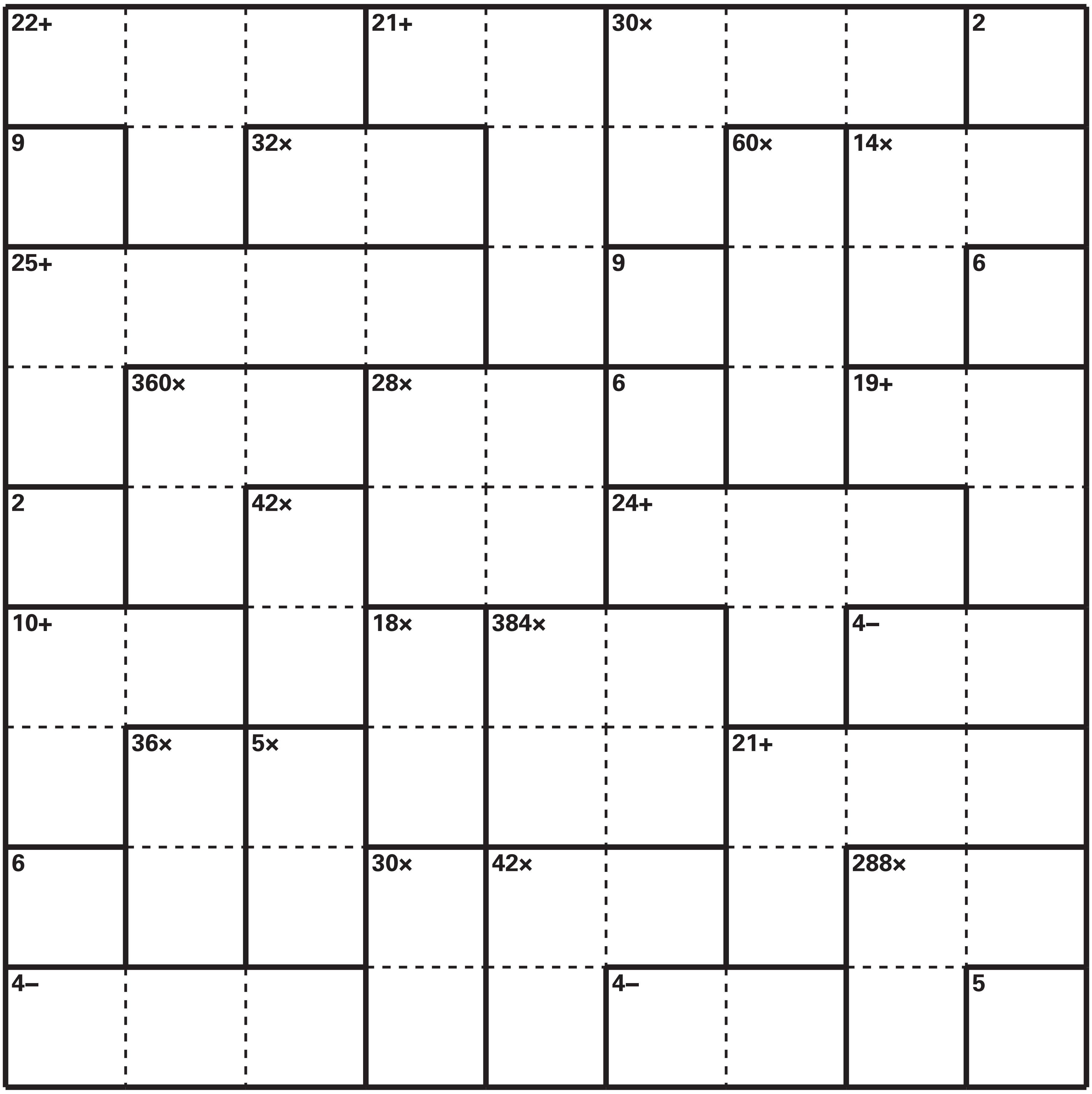
by Jaeho Kim '20

a comic about life at 'tvte


Extrapolation
1981
2019
2051

Good Luck!

Solution, page 16



22+			21+		30×			2
9		32×				60×	14×	
25+					9			6
	360×		28×		6		19+	
2		42×			24+			
10+			18×	384×			4–	
	36×	5×				21+		
6			30×	42×			288×	
4–					4–			5

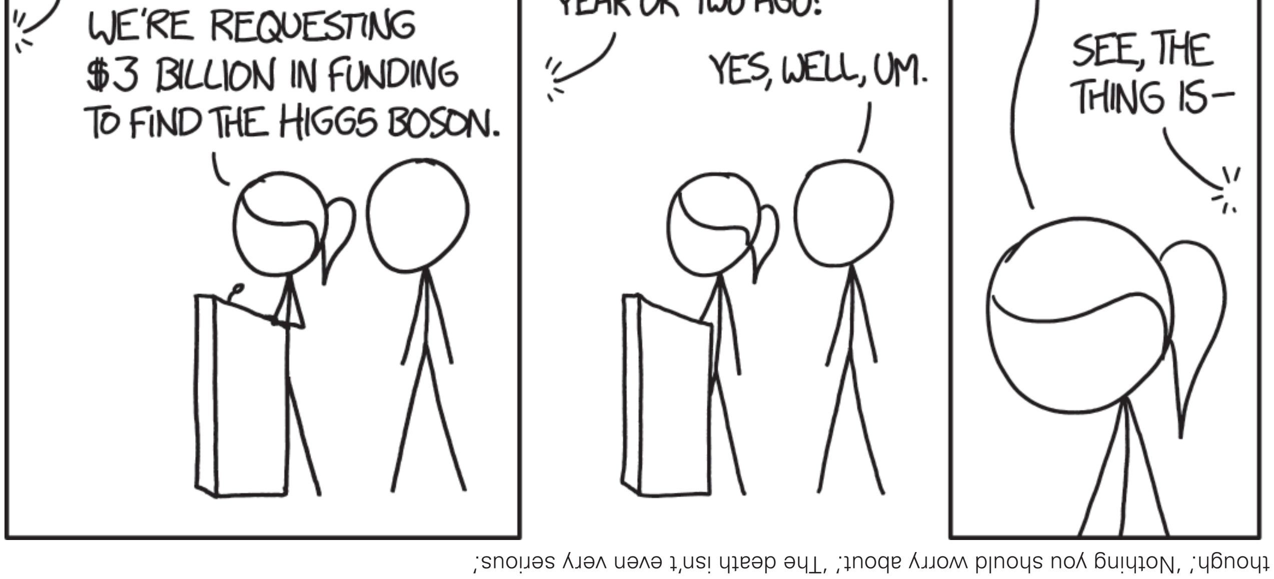
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

xkcd

A webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language

by Randall Munroe

[1437] Higgs Boson


TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROPOSAL.
WE'RE REQUESTING $3 BILLION IN FUNDING TO FIND THE HIGGS BOSON.
...WAIT. DIDN'T YOU ALREADY FIND IT A YEAR OR TWO AGO?
YES, WELL, UM.
...OK, THIS IS EMBARRASSING.
SEE, THE THING IS–

'Can't you just use the LHC you already built to find it again?', 'We MAY have disassembled it to build a death ray', 'Just one, though,' 'Nothing you should worry about,' 'The death isn't even very serious.'

Tobie Weiner retires after 34 years at MIT

Weiner: 'Explore a lot of options and don't get hung up on what everybody else is doing or telling you to do'

By Suleman Thaniana

Tobie Weiner, undergraduate administrator for political science, retired recently after 34 years at the Institute. *The Tech* spoke with Weiner in a phone interview about her career in MIT's political science department.

This interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity.

The Tech: What were your responsibilities?

Tobie Weiner: I was the undergraduate administrator for political science, helping students and advisors and tracking graduation. Then, I was the program coordinator for the MIT Washington Summer Internship Program, running the program and visiting DC and matching interns with good internships. Then, I started a couple of different classes. One was called "Conversations You Can't Have on Campus" — discussions about race and gender and ethnicity and identity. That ran for quite a while; it became a pretty large class. And, I ran our local political science internship class. I also started the Martin Luther King design seminar that happened during IAP. Students took the class and then built, developed, and designed the installation that we had in Lobby 10 for about 10 days.

TT: Could you elaborate about the MIT DC program?

Weiner: It's a summer Washington internship program that was designed for students who are scientists and engineers who wanted to work in public policy positions. It wasn't a political internship. It was more technical, but policy related. Our interns would take a class in the spring to get them ready to go to DC. They do their internships in the summer, and then they come back and finish up their class in the fall.

TT: How was your daily life at MIT and what was your schedule like? Did you have fun?

Weiner: The best part about my job was the ability to try new things. My department was really flexible and supportive and the students were wonderful. So, just talking to the undergrads and finding out what things they wanted, trying to plan events, and just keeping up with how they're doing. I miss everything, but I really miss the students.

TT: What is your largest contribution to MIT?

Weiner: My classes, particularly the "Conversations You Can't Have on Campus," and the Martin Luther King design seminar would be the things that I'm most proud of developing. The DC program was really important, too.

TT: What's special about the political science department at MIT?

Weiner: Our department is a really good mix of quantitative and qualitative research. It's at MIT, so there's quite a bit of quantitative research. It was a good place for students to learn how you can take an interest in the world — in politics, or policy — and work it in with your technical major as well. You can even change the world in a positive way. The faculty are great. Staff are great. I've been [in the political science department] since I started at MIT, and had absolutely never had any interest in changing.

TT: What do you think is one class every student at MIT should take in the department?

Weiner: Well, if I were still there, I'd say my class, but I think any class in the political science department. There's Making Public Policy, Introduction to American Political Process, or Introduction to International Relations. It's hard to say because you might be a student who doesn't care about U.S. [domestic] politics. Then you might want to take American Foreign Policy or Intro to International Relations.

TT: What advice do you have for the students of MIT?

Weiner: Get help before you desperately need it. Get to know your teachers. Go to office hours; talk to people. Explore a lot of options and don't get hung up on what everybody else is doing or telling you to do.

For all who wish to attend, there is a retirement party today for Weiner from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Millikan Room, E53-482.

Climate strike organized by grad students

Climate Strike, from Page 1

rations, and universities — to solve the problem. The real solutions must be driven by the people."

Wilka said that she wanted to show "that scientists are not stuck in their ivory towers doing calculations, that we live in this world as well, that we understand the gravity of the situation that is facing us." She said she believes that it is important for scientists to "stand behind the societal implications of the[ir] research."

Wilka advised young people interested in taking action against climate change to stay politically involved, whether it be voting, contacting their legislators, or running for office. Wilka also advised people to stay cognizant of the challenges facing society when pursuing science.

Cleary wrote that the most important thing to keep in mind is that "many scientists hesitate to speak out on activist issues, as they feel this might somehow compromise the objectivity of the scientist. While it is true that the practice of science must be objective, we still must choose what science to do, and the science we choose to do has real consequences for real people."

Edwin Song contributed reporting.

ETHER BEZUGLA—THE TECH

Mayor of Cambridge Marc McGovern speaks with MIT students behind Kresge Oval Friday.

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Solution to Otterhound

from page 12

6	3	7	2	5	9	8	1	4
2	4	9	1	3	8	5	6	7
1	5	8	7	6	4	2	9	3
9	6	4	8	7	2	3	5	1
8	2	3	4	1	5	9	7	6
5	7	1	3	9	6	4	2	8
3	8	5	6	2	7	1	4	9
4	9	6	5	8	1	7	3	2
7	1	2	9	4	3	6	8	5

Solution to Komondor

from page 12

5	4	3	1	2	6
1	6	5	3	4	2
4	3	2	6	1	5
6	5	4	2	3	1
2	1	6	4	5	3
3	2	1	5	6	4

Solution to Plague

from page 13

4	7	8	3	9	5	1	6	2
9	3	4	8	5	1	6	2	7
8	2	3	7	4	9	5	1	6
5	8	9	4	1	6	2	7	3
2	5	6	1	7	3	8	4	9
3	6	7	2	8	4	9	5	1
1	4	5	9	6	2	7	3	8
6	9	1	5	2	7	3	8	4
7	1	2	6	3	8	4	9	5

Solution to Good Luck!

from page 14

9	5	3	6	4	8	2	1	7
7	3	1	4	2	6	9	8	5
5	1	8	2	9	4	7	6	3
3	8	6	9	7	2	5	4	1
1	6	4	7	5	9	3	2	8
6	2	9	3	1	5	8	7	4
2	7	5	8	6	1	4	3	9
8	4	2	5	3	7	1	9	6
4	9	7	1	8	3	6	5	2

Solution to The Usual

from page 12

A	N	T	E	■	■	U	R	G	E	■	A	B	C	S
F	A	W	N	■	■	S	U	R	E	■	L	E	A	K
A	M	I	D	■	P	E	T	E	R	■	E	A	S	Y
R	E	G	U	L	A	R	H	A	I	R	C	U	T	■
■	■	■	P	A	T	■	■	T	E	E	■	■	■	■
M	P	G	■	W	R	A	P	■	■	E	P	I	C	■
A	L	A	S	■	O	H	I	O	■	L	A	N	E	S
R	O	U	T	I	N	E	P	H	Y	S	I	C	A	L
E	D	G	E	D	■	M	E	N	U	■	R	U	S	E
■	S	E	M	I	■	■	R	O	M	P	■	R	E	D
■	■	■	■	O	A	K	■	■	Y	E	S	■	■	■
■	C	O	M	M	O	N	C	O	U	R	T	E	S	Y
H	O	P	E	■	R	E	A	L	M	■	A	R	E	A
I	D	E	A	■	T	A	L	E	■	■	L	I	N	K
D	E	N	T	■	A	D	M	S	■	■	L	E	T	S

101 THINGS TO DO
BEFORE YOU GRADUATE

32. Take a stroll through Little Italy in the North End

Join the Arts department at *The Tech* and write restaurant reviews.

(And get reimbursed for your meal!)

Email us at join@tech.mit.edu

Join **The Tech**, You'd be a great **CATCH!**

File Edit Options Buffers Tools Im-Python Python Help

```
from new_skills import *

def learnMarketableJobSkills():
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python, PHP
```

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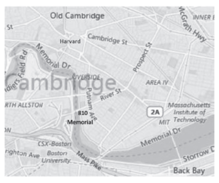
Old Cambridge
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Memorial Dr
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Memorial Dr
CSX-Boston
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70 (Cedarwood — Central Square)
70A (North Waltham — Central Square)

v1

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FOR MASSACHUSETTS

FRI SEPTEMBER 27
2:00—6:00PM
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77 MASS AVE

Congress is currently debating a discretionary budget which spends more than 50% of our income tax dollars on endless wars, nuclear weapons upgrades, foreign military bases, and other military accounts. Financing this requires cutting major programs funding human and environmental needs. This Forum will offer an alternative vision and budget.

Schedule:

Developing a Moral Budget for MA | 2:00pm
Housing, Transit, Infrastructure & Energy | 3:00pm
Education & Health | 4:00pm
Cutting the Pentagon Budget | 4:45pm
Next Steps & Benediction | 5:30pm

Full list of speakers and more at radius.mit.edu

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Secretary of the Treasury.
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HAMILTON
DOLLARS